The Cleveland Museum of Art

Press Release

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CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CURATOR OF CHINESE ART

(Cleveland, OH) Director Robert P. Bergman announced today the appointment of Dr. Ju-hsi Chou as the museum's Curator of Chinese Art, ending a year-long international search. Dr. Chou, a distinguished expert in the field of Chinese painting, is the first senior scholar to occupy the Chinese curatorial chair since the departure of Wai-kam Ho in 1983. Dr. Chou will assume stewardship of one of the nation's outstanding collections of Chinese art, including painting, sculpture and the smaller three-dimensional arts. He will arrive in Cleveland to take up his post in early January, 1998.

Born in Shanghai, Dr. Chou attended primary schools there before moving with his family to Taiwan, where he completed his secondary education. After moving to the United States in the late 1950s, he studied painting and received his B.A. in art at the University of Kentucky. He then went on to pursue graduate work in Chinese art and archaeology, and was awarded his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees by Princeton University.

Dr. Chou served as Assistant Professor of Art at Oberlin College from 1969 to 1973, and then as Visiting Andrew Mellon Professor at Carnegie-Mellon University and Visiting Associate Professor at Colgate University, before accepting in 1975 a faculty appointment in the School of Art at Arizona State University, where he was elected full professor in 1980 and where he continues to teach through 1997. In 1993 he served as Visiting Professor at the University of Chicago and, during extended leave from Arizona State between 1993-1996, as Professor and Chair of the Department of Fine Arts at the University of Hong Kong. He continues as Honorary Professor of Fine Arts at the University of Hong Kong through 1999.

Throughout his academic career, Dr. Chou has maintained a lively participation in the field of collecting, most notably as advisor in the formation of the Roy and Marilyn Papp Collection of Ming and Qing period Chinese painting in Phoenix and as advisor to the Hong Kong Museum of Art. His interest in the museum-based study and exhibition of Chinese art has been expressed through his collaborations with the Phoenix Art Museum on four

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significant exhibitions and catalogues, including **The Elegant Brush: Painting Under the Emperor Qianlong, 1735-1796** (1985-6), which included the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Hong Kong Museum among its venues; and **Transcending Turmoil: Painting at the Close of China's Empire, 1796-1911** (1992-3), which traveled to Denver, Honolulu and Hong Kong following its presentation in Phoenix. In addition, Dr. Chou collaborated on two major traveling exhibitions of paintings from the Papp Collection, which were shown in the United States and Europe.

In addition to his museum-related catalogue publications, Dr. Chou is the author of numerous scholarly articles and reviews, most of which focus on Chinese painting between the 15th and 20th centuries (Ming and Qing Dynasties). He is also the founder and editor-in-chief of *Phoebus*, Arizona State University's scholarly journal of art history. Dr. Chou is well-known in this country and abroad as a lively lecturer and participant in international scholarly activities.

In announcing the appointment Dr. Bergman commented: "Our museum's great collection of Chinese art deserves the stewardship of a distinguished senior scholar/curator. We looked long and hard to find just the right one, and in Ju-hsi Chou we have found him. Dr. Chou combines the brilliance of a gifted scholar and the interpretive skills of a gifted teacher with the eye of a connoisseur, and he has a personal commitment to the public role of the museum. He is the ideal person to help build the museum's collection of Chinese art, engage in its scholarly study, and bring it to life for the public through exhibitions, permanent collection installations, and educational/community activities. We are delighted that he chose to join our curatorial ranks. I know that everyone in the community who comes to know him will be equally delighted by the experience."

Dr. Chou reacted to his selection for his new position by saying: "I am very pleased to be joining the curatorial team of the Cleveland Museum of Art and to become part of the museum's important tradition of collecting, exhibiting and studying Chinese art. I am well aware of the museum's importance in the international world of art and scholarship, and I'm equally enthusiastic about its deep commitment to serving its community and broadening its audience."

Senior Research Curator for Chinese Art Wai-kam Ho served in the museum's curatorial ranks from 1959 to 1983. Collaborating with former director and Asian expert Sherman E. Lee, he assembled for Cleveland one of the finest Asian collections in the West. The post of Associate Curator of Chinese Art at CMA was held most recently by J. Keith Wilson, who served on the museum's curatorial staff from 1988 to 1996.

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